

To: Senate Co-Chair Eric Coleman
House Co-Chair Gerald Fox
Senate Ranking Member John Kissel
House Ranking Member Rosa Rebimbas
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Tamara Egan, Lead Probate Court Officer; Karen Parzych, Clerk;
Georgette Mauro-Celentano, Assistant Clerk –
New Haven Regional Children's Probate Court

Re: RB 5488 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for
Probate Court Personnel

Date: March 17, 2014

We would also like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on Raised Bill 5488 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Probate Court Personnel.

In an era where our state is fighting to maintain children with their families more than ever before, the Children's Probate Courts are a vital part of this effort. Families with members who have significant mental health issues and long standing levels of dysfunction seek the assistance of our court on a daily basis to maintain children in their care rather than see them enter our foster care system. As employees of the Children's Probate Courts, we work tirelessly with the public during our day to financially provide our own families and children. It is just simply unfair that it can cost us more than twice as much as it costs another state employee for dependent coverage.

While not classified as state employees, we have suffered some of the same economic sacrifices in our latest budget crisis as you have heard already today. While our pay was frozen, increases in benefit costs continued to rise. We work side by side with many other state employees to meet the needs of this very vulnerable population, our children, and all we seek is to have the same benefits that they enjoy.

We respectfully request that the General Assembly rectify this inequity.